

40 percent of net patient revenue in the average rural hospital, and as much as 80 percent in some rural hospitals.

According to the American Hospital Association, under the Republican cuts, the typical rural hospital will lose \$5 million in Medicare funding over 7 years.

Rural Medicare recipients would lose much-needed doctors. America's rural Medicare recipients would need 5,084 more primary care physicians to have the same doctor to population ratio as the Nation as a whole. Yet the American Medical Association has stated that the cuts in Medicare are so severe that they "will unquestionably cause some physicians to leave Medicare." [New York Times, October 10, 1995.]

#### THE CLEVELAND INDIANS—A TEAM OF DESTINY

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF], from the great apple- and fish-producing State, for his friendly wager on the outcome of the American League Baseball Championship series between the mighty Cleveland Indians and a team from Washington. I am sorry that I was not here yesterday to accept his bet immediately, but consider it done.

Mr. Speaker, I will wager an assortment of high-pressure hose fittings, high-quality roller bearings, and of course as much slab steel as the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] thinks that he can use. Cleveland, after all, is a working man's city, and we make stuff, we do not pick it off trees or pull it out of rivers.

However, since I am not sure how well industrial products are appreciated in the more agrarian regions of our great and vast country, I will also throw in a case of beer from our Great Lakes Brewing Co. and an assortment of Polish pierogies, German bratwurst, and Hungarian paprikash.

I do not mean to predict an outcome or want to sound overconfident, but just for the sake of clarification, I think the gentleman from Washington should know that I like my apples green and my salmon smoked.

The Indians are a team of destiny. No one knows more about overcoming adversity than the Cleveland Indians, except maybe House Republicans, and it is no coincidence that the last time the Indians won the pennant was the last time the Republicans controlled the House in sweeping proportions, just like the Indians will take the pennant this year.

#### THE LOCKBOX IS A SHAM

(Mr. BENTSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, all along, the Republican Medicare plan

has been nothing but a shell game to design to hide that they are cutting Medicare to pay for tax cuts for the rich. The American people were not fooled, and they quickly caught on that Medicare would have to be cut by \$270 billion if the Republicans were not also trying to cut taxes by \$245 billion.

In fact, \$150 billion of the Medicare cuts the Republicans propose having nothing to do with the insolvency proposed in part A, so the Republicans have now introduced a new gimmick: the so-called Medicare lockbox.

Each new explanation only makes the Republicans look more and more like a kid caught with his hand in the cookie jar. The fact is we have a single Federal budget with a single bottom line. Tax cuts and Medicare expenditures are both part of that bottom line. If you cut taxes by \$245 billion, then you have to make up the lost revenues in order to balance the budget by 2002. The Republicans make up that lost revenue by cutting Medicare.

To claim that tax cuts are paid for from other cuts is absurd. The lockbox is a sham. Democrats want to fix Medicare as we always have, and the Republicans are not being honest about their intentions to raid Medicare to pay for tax cuts for the rich.

#### WE MUST LISTEN TO OUR CONSTITUENTS ON THE MEDICARE ISSUE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether anyone reads their mail. I take time to do it, and I think it is important as we debate this matter, since we are only having about half a second of hearings on Medicare, to really listen to the constituents.

I can tell you I am getting a lot of mail. From Sister Jane Abell of the Dominican Sisters:

I am opposed to the proposed Medicare and Medicaid cuts, especially when the Congress wants to give the Pentagon \$7 billion more than they requested. In my view it is unjust to make the most vulnerable people in our society bear the brunt of needed cuts. I hope this issue will be more fully debated and more humane compromises reached.

Yes, Sister, I am going to be working on that and so are the Democrats.

Two senior citizens say:

My wife and I have had total of 14 operations. We spend \$650 per 3 months for Medicare Plus insurance. About one-third of our retirement goes for medical. We do not need cuts, we need to clean up what we have and cut the waste.

That is what we are saying to the Republicans: Cut the waste and the fraud and abuse, do not take \$270 billion out of Medicare just to give tax increases to those who well can afford it. Let me tell you something. If you listen to our hospitals, Texas Children's, our local community hospitals, they are saying, "Do not cut Medicare and Medicaid, do

not cut services." Let us be rational, let us be real. Let us do something right for Medicare and for our senior citizens.

#### MEDICARE CUTS HURT

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, last week I got a check in the mail.

At first I thought it was a check for having a flag flown over the Capitol.

But it wasn't.

Then I thought maybe it was a misdirected campaign contribution.

But it wasn't.

Then I looked again.

It was a check from a senior citizen in my district who is so scared she will lose her Medicare benefits, she wanted to contribute \$10 to the government to make the system whole again.

She thought that if enough people contributed \$10, everything would be all right and she could rest easy about the state of her health care.

Mr. Speaker, I wish I could give her that reassurance.

Not only did I send the check back to her, I had to tell her that the outlook was bleak for protecting her health care under current proposals now making their way through the reconciliation process.

It's a sad day in America that we've come to this point; that our senior citizens are so scared of our actions that they are begging us not to take away their health care.

I sent the check back but, unfortunately, it won't even begin to cover her Medicare cuts.

My constituent is going to need that \$10 check. Actually, she's going to need a whole lot more.

#### TOO MUCH MONEY IN HEALTH CARE CUTS AND TOO MUCH MONEY TO THE AMA

(Mr. KLECZKA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, a lot of talk has been had today on Medicare. Let me make two quick points. No. 1, there is a solvency problem of Part A, the hospital trust fund, and we are told to extend the solvency to the year 2006 it will take \$90 billion. In about 10 minutes the Democrats on the Committee on Ways and Means will produce their bill to save the Medicare trust fund, but although it takes \$90 billion to save the trust fund, the Republicans are cutting \$270 billion. I ask, why are they cutting three times as much as necessary, and after they cut \$270 billion, they resolve the trust fund to the year 2006 also? Because the balance is going for tax cuts.

We had a committee meeting marking up the Medicare bill yesterday. There was an amendment to provide